CLAIMS

1. A biometric system comprising:

at least one biometric device capable of identifying a user and generating data related to the user;

a central data center in communication with the at least one biometric device for receiving the generated data; and

wherein the generated data relates to time and attendance information with respect to the user.

2. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the time and attendance information includes at least one of the group consisting of a user name, a location, an entrance time, an exit time, a check-in time and a time stamp.

3. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the central data center is in communication to the biometric device via one of a serial connection, a wireless connection, a modem, an ethernet connection and an Internet connection.

4. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device compares stored biometric data to live biometric data.

5. The biometric system of claim 4 wherein the stored biometric data and live biometric data are fingerprint data.

6. The biometric system of claim 4 wherein the stored biometric data is stored on one of an optical card, data card, memory card, smart card, biometric token, or storage button.

7. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device is used as part of a telephone.

8. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device is used as part of a personal digital assistant.

9. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device includes a biometric authentication device with a button for fingerprint data storage.

10. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device is a biometric authentication device with a wireless data card.

11. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device is a laptop computer.

12. The biometric system of claim 1 wherein the biometric device is part of a time clock.

13. A biometric network for use in time and attendance applications comprising:

at least one biometric unit that compares live biometric data with stored biometric data to generate time and attendance data;

a central data center in communication with the biometric device; and

software programmed into the biometric device and operational with the central data center to facilitate communication between the biometric device and the central data center.

14. The network of claim 13 wherein the software includes a configuration module for describing the configuration of the biometric network.

15. The network of claim 14 wherein the configuration module stores information related to the configuration of the biometric network in a biometric network description data store.

16. The biometric system of claim 13 wherein the software further includes an acquisition module programmed to capture transactional data from the biometric network.

17. The biometric system of claim 16 wherein the acquisition module is programmed to send information related to the transactional data into a transactional history data store in the central data center.

18. The biometric system of claim 13 wherein the software further includes an employee data maintenance module programmed to enter and edit employee information from the biometric network.

19. The biometric system of claim 18 wherein the employee data maintenance module is programmed to send employee information into an employee information data store in the central data center.

20. The biometric system of claim 18 wherein the employee data maintenance module is programmed to send employee information into an audit log data store in the central data center.

21. The biometric system of claim 13 wherein the software further includes a company data maintenance module program to enter and edit company data information.

22. The biometric system of claim 21 wherein the company data maintenance module is programmed to send the company data information into a company information data store in the central data center.

23. The biometric system of claim 21 wherein the company data maintenance module is programmed to send the company data information into an audit log data store in the central data center.

24. The biometric system of claim 13 wherein the software includes a manual transaction module programmed to enter manual changes to entries in a transaction history.

25. The biometric system of claim 24 wherein the manual transaction module is programmed to store data related to the manual entries in an audit log data store in the central data center.

26. The biometric system of claim 24 wherein the manual transaction module is programmed to send data related to the manual entries to a transaction history data store in the central data center.

27. The biometric system of claim 13 wherein the software includes a report generation module programmed to permit generation of reports based on the time and attendance data.

28. The biometric system of claim 27 wherein the reports include information gathered from at least one of a biometric network description data store, a transaction history data store, an employee information data store, a company information data store, an audit log data store, a transaction history data store, and a biometric network diagnostic log data store.

29. A biometric system comprising:

at least one biometric device for comparing live biometric data to stored biometric data and generating time and attendance data based on the comparison; and

a central data center in communication with the biometric device for receiving the time and attendance data from the biometric device;

30. The biometric system of claim 29 wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of user entry time, user exit time, user check-in time and user attendance.

31. A fingerprint system comprising:

at least one fingerprint device for comparing live fingerprint data to stored fingerprint data and generating time and attendance data based on the comparison; and

a central data center in communication with the fingerprint device for receiving the time and attendance data from the fingerprint device;

32. The system of claim 31 wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of user entry time, user exit time, user check-in time and user attendance.

33. The system of claim 29 further including a report including at least a portion of the time and attendance data generated by the biometric device.

34. The system of claim 31 further including a report including at least a portion of the time and attendance data generated by the fingerprint device.

35. A time and attendance network for use in an educational setting comprising:

a plurality of biometric tokens, each biometric token having stored biometric data thereon specific to a user;

at least one biometric device, the biometric device capable of comparing user live biometric data with the stored biometric data on the biometric token and generating data related to the user;

wherein each biometric device is in communication with a central data center to receive and process the data.

36. The time and attendance network of claim 35 wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of user entry time, user exit time, user check-in time and user attendance.

37. The time and attendance network of claim 35 wherein the user is a student.

38. The time and attendance network of claim 35 wherein the user is a teacher.

39. The time and attendance network of claim 35 wherein the user is an authorized student guardian.

40. A classroom time and attendance network comprising:

at least one biometric device in a classroom capable of capable of biometrically identifying a user and generating data related to the user;

a central data center in communication with the at least one biometric device for receiving the generated data; and

wherein the generated data relates to time and attendance information with respect to the user.

41. The network of claim 40 wherein the data is selected from the group consisting of user entry time, user exit time, user check-in time and user attendance.

42. A report for use in time and attendance applications comprising:

timing data derived from a comparison of live biometric data to stored biometric data; and

identification data derived from the comparison of live biometric data to stored biometric data.

43. A report for use in time and attendance applications comprising:

timing data derived from a comparison of live fingerprint data to stored fingerprint data; and

identification data derived from the comparison of live fingerprint data to stored fingerprint data.

44. A report for use with a biometric device comprising:

timing data; and

identification data related to the timing data;

wherein at least a portion of the timing data and the identification data are generated by the biometric device as a result of a biometric verification.

45. A report for use with a fingerprint device comprising:

timing data; and

identification data related to the timing data;

wherein at least a portion of the timing data and the identification data are generated by the fingerprint device as a result of a fingerprint verification.

46. A report for use with a biometric device comprising:

at least one data type selected from the group consisting of entrance time, exit time, name, check-in time, check-out time, user identification, and payroll number;

wherein at least a portion of the data is generated by the biometric device as a result of a biometric verification.

47. The report of claim 46 wherein the biometric verification generating at least a portion of the data includes fingerprint verification.

48. The report of claim 46 wherein the data is derived from a comparison of live biometric data to stored biometric data at the biometric device.

49. A method of biometric time and attendance reporting comprising:

providing at least one biometric device;

with the biometric device, comparing live biometric data with stored biometric data to generate time and attendance data; and

communicating the time and attendance data to a central data center in communication with the at least one biometric device.

50. The method of claim 49 wherein the method further comprises generating a report using the time and attendance data.

51. The method of claim 49 wherein the live and stored biometric data are fingerprint data.

52. A method of biometric time and attendance reporting comprising:

providing at least one biometric device;

biometrically identifying a user and generating data related to the user;

communicating the data to a central data center in communication with the at least one biometric device.

53. The method of claim 52 wherein the user is one selected from the group consisting of a student, teacher, professor, authorized child custodian, parent, therapist or school-related personnel.

54. The method of claim 52 wherein the biometrically identifying step includes taking fingerprint data from the user.

55. A method of monitoring time and attendance activities comprising:

providing a plurality of biometric devices, each device at a particular location;

biometrically identifying a user and generating data relating to the user;

receiving data from the biometric devices; and

processing the data;

wherein the data includes information related to the attendance of the user at the particular location.

56. The method of claim 55 wherein the data includes information related to when the identifying of the user occurs at the particular location.

57. The method of claim 55 wherein the method further comprises generating a report using the data relating to the user.

58. The method of claim 55 wherein the method further comprises comparing stored biometric data to live biometric data.

59. The method of claim 55 wherein the method further includes receiving the data from the biometric devices periodically.

60. The method of claim 55 wherein the receiving of the data from the biometric devices occurs in real time.